



Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation

Connecting people with Nebraska history since 1942.

ABOUT

PROJECTS

DONATE

Our Impact In 2023!

3200

of Visitors on the
Walk To The Rock
Trails in first 3 months

170

of WanderNebraska
Sites in 2023

\$50,000

48 grants awarded to
Nebraska Museums &
Historical Societies in
2023 through the
Statewide Grant
Program

700

of Unique Donations
Totaling Almost \$1.5
Million

84%

2023 increase in social
media engagement
(sharing, liking,
commenting, etc)

7,495

of Users Visiting the
NSHSF Website

Oldfield Brigade Spotlight



Trixie and Dave Schmidt Oldfield Brigade members

Trixie Schmidt, former President of the Board of Directors, decided to join the NSHSF's Oldfield Brigade program (and include the NSHSF in her estate plans) about 5 years ago as she and her husband, Dave, began to see how the Foundation was expanding and fulfilling their mission across the state. "It's been amazing to see what's happened in the last few years with the Foundation," said Trixie. She explained that beyond her love for Nebraska, her membership decision was based on "massive growth from the Foundation and their positive involvement across the state, especially in the last few years."

Trixie's interest and involvement in Nebraska history started with her upbringing. Trixie was born and raised in Lincoln after her great-grandparents settled

in Buffalo County in the 1800s. Her family's original land stayed in her family until about 40 years ago, and her relatives now live all across the state.

After minoring in history at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Trixie's interest in Nebraska history further developed during her career as a teacher at Lincoln Public Schools. Trixie said she loved the 4th grade Nebraska history curriculum—she would even ask to trade curriculum assignments with other teachers so that she could teach this unit. One of her favorite events of the school year was taking students to the History Nebraska Museum, which the students always loved. Later in her career, she worked with tribal groups at the UNL State Museum which she said allowed her to understand Nebraska history at a greater depth.

Beyond her upbringing and career, Trixie said Nebraska is a great place to raise kids. When her children were small, they took Nebraska "drive about" vacations across the state to places like Toadstool State Park, Ponca State Park, Platte River State Park, Fort Robinson, Fort Atkinson, and the Niobrara River, to name a few. Morrill Hall used to have family events across Nebraska and her family attended as many as they could.

Overall, Trixie said that she wants to invest her money in organizations that she and Dave feel are important to the Nebraska community; Nebraska residents knowing their history is important to them both. Her hope with their legacy gift to the foundation is that people pay attention to, learn about, and honor their Nebraska history.

The NSHSF would like to thank Trixie and Dave for their commitment to the history of our state, both now and beyond their lifetime! If you are interested in learning more about Oldfield Brigade membership, please contact Carolyn Hove at chove@nshsf.org

Pershing Mural Update

So, what potential lies within the 763,000 one-inch square, multi-colored ceramic tiles meticulously arranged to restore the Pershing Mural? Once the 38' x 140' Nebraska cultural landmark mural is restored and placed in its permanent home at Wyuka Park, it will:



- Provide a communal space for families and the community to gather and enjoy each other's company in the serene setting of the park.
- Act as a backdrop and a wellspring of inspiration for various artistic expressions, including poetry, storytelling, plays, jazz events, as well as musical theater and dance performances.
- Cultivate an appreciation for Nebraska's rich history and culture, encouraging exploration of murals across the state, from Omaha to

Scottsbluff, and Crete to Tekamah.

- Function as a catalyst for learning.

The Pershing Mural Historic Preservation Committee, collaborating with other Nebraska organizations and institutions, has undertaken the task of developing curricula aligned with statewide standards for diverse age groups, ranging from Preschool to Life-Long Learners. These educational initiatives will offer ideas and experiences for youth, social and civic groups, seniors, public and parochial school students, as well as home-schooled scholars.

The mural will serve as a source of inspiration for educators in literature, mathematics, science, history, geography, and the arts. It encourages thinking beyond conventional boundaries, prompting young math students to review concepts such as areas, perimeter, and fractions. For science and nature enthusiasts, the mural's format becomes a valuable tool to enhance the study of Nebraska's topography, including historic trails. Lesson plans are being crafted to assist aspiring poets and short story writers in using the mural as a muse to narrate the stories depicted in the 38 different figures featured. Additionally, other lesson plans will focus on art appreciation and creation. These initiatives only scratch the surface of how the mural will serve as a wellspring of inspiration and, ultimately, the cornerstone for numerous exciting educational experiences.

[Donate to Pershing Mural](#)

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